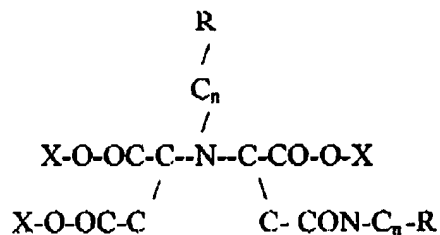
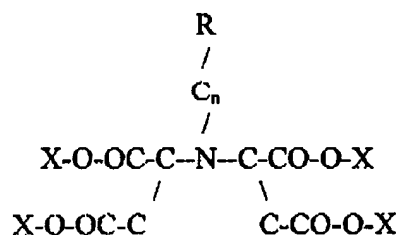


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(ii)



(iii)



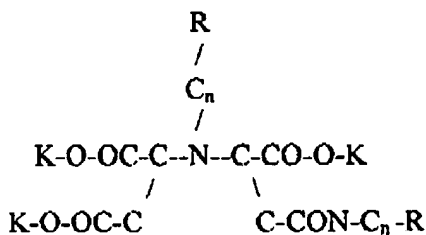
On page 10 at lines 29 et seq. please substitute ~~is~~ for [maybe] to read as follows:

Where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal;

Where n is 1 to 10; and

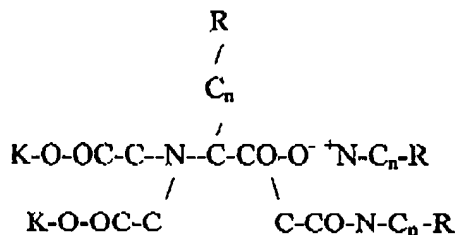
Where R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons.

On page 33 at lines 10 et seq., please insert vertical lines between the "R" and the "C_n" and between the "C_n" and the "N" in the formula to appear as follows:

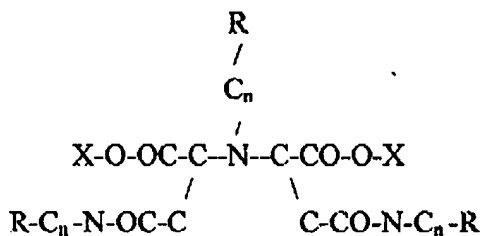


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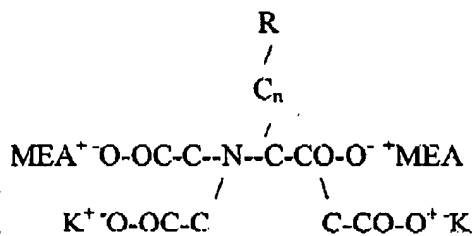
On page 43, at lines 10 et seq., please insert vertical lines between the "R" and the "C_n"
and between the "C_n" and the "C" in the formula to appear as follows:



On page 44 at lines 16 et seq., please insert vertical lines between "R" and "C_n" and
between "C_n" and "N" to appear as follows:

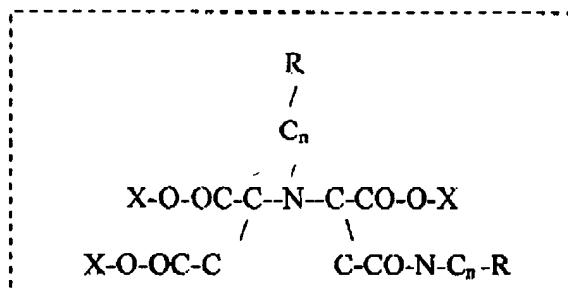


On page 50 at lines 10 et seq., please insert vertical lines between "R" and "C_n" and
between "C_n" and "C" to appear as follows:

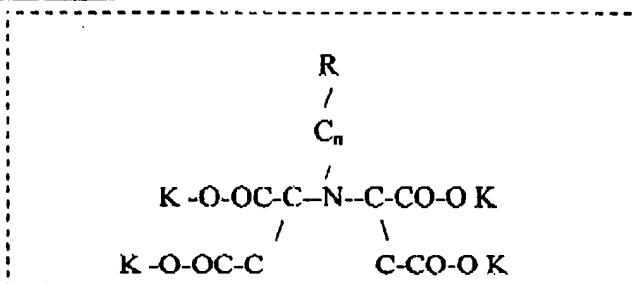


On page 58 at lines 8 et seq., please insert vertical lines between "R" and "C_n" and
between "C_n" and "N" to appear as follows:

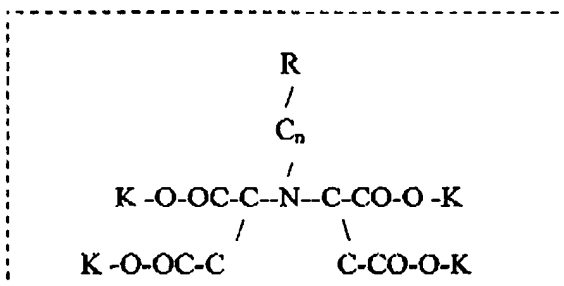
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On page 59, at lines 15 et seq., please insert vertical lines between "R" and "C_n" and between "C_n" and "N" to appear as follows:



On page 66, please insert vertical lines between "R" and "C_n" and between "C_n" and "N" to appear as follows:



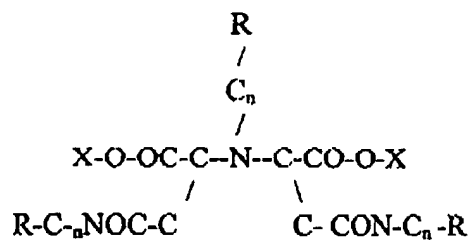
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 31 and 33 and please amend claims 1, 7, 11, 15, and 19 to read as follows:

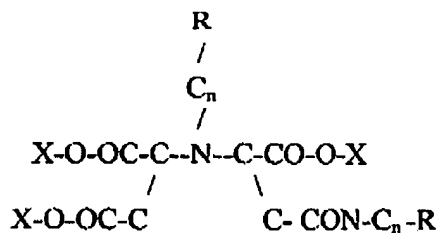
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Sub C1
1. (Amended) A chelating composition comprising a modified iminodisuccinic acid, or a salt thereof, having one or more of the following formulas:

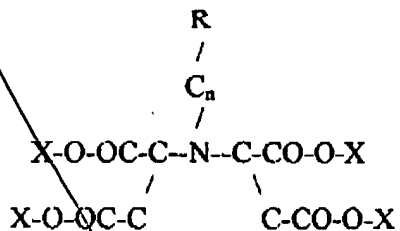
(a)



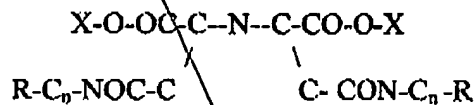
(b)



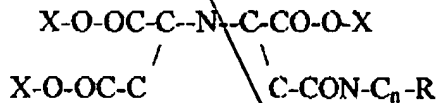
(c)



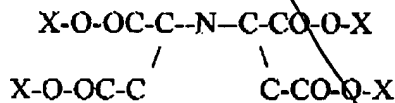
(d)



(e)



(f)



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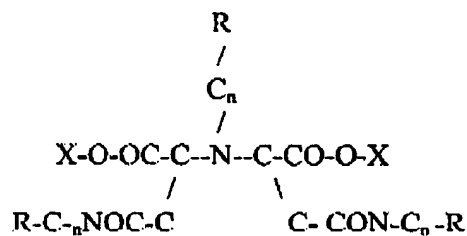
where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal;

where n is 1 to 10; and

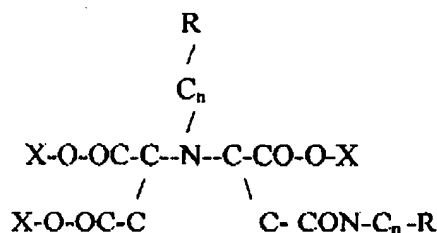
where R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said modified iminodisuccinic acid has one of the following formulas:

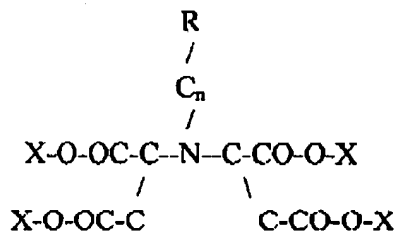
(a)



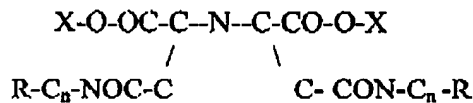
(b)



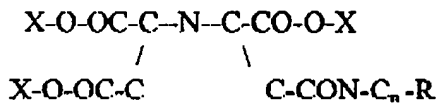
(c)



(d)

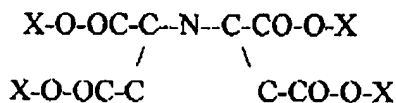


(e)



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(f)

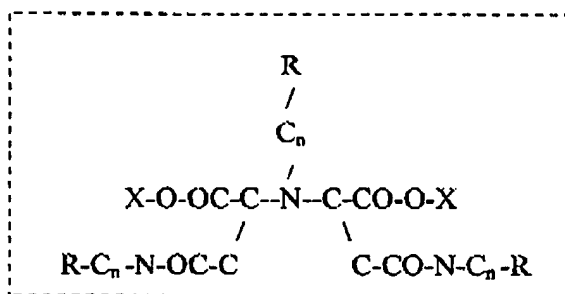


where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal;

where n is 1 to 10; and

where R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons.

1. (Amended) The synthesis of compounds comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:

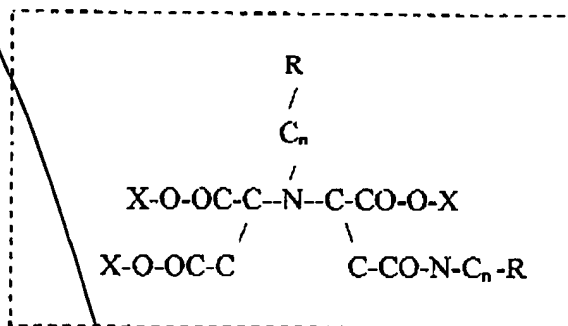


where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal; n is 1 to 10, and R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons, wherein said synthesis comprises the steps of:

- (a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine, and allowing same to react to form a N-polyfunctional acid common name amide; and
- (b) adding water, M(OH) , and a second polyfunctional amine to said N-polyfunctional acid common name amide and allowing same to react to form an imino di N- polyfunctional acid common name amide.

15. (Amended) The synthesis of compounds comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:

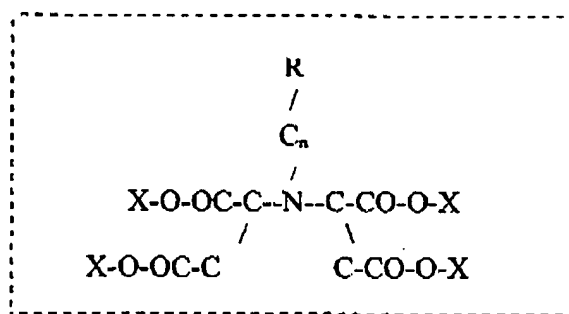
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where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts, n is 1 to 10, R is a Lewis base capable of donating a nonbonded pair of electrons, and Me is selected from the alkali metals, wherein said synthesis comprises the steps of:

- (a) adding an acid anhydride or lactone to a first polyfunctional amine, and allowing same to react to form a N- polyfunctional acid common name amide; and
- (b) adding to said N- polyfunctional acid common name amide, water, a second polyfunctional amine, an acid anhydride or lactone, a Me (OH), and allowing same to react to form said compounds.

11/19/02
11/2/02
19. (Amended) The synthesis of compounds comprising at least one poly functional substitution on iminodisuccinic acid having the following formula:



where X is H, alkali, alkaline earth, ammonium-substituted radical, ammonium or transition metal salts, where n is 1 to 10; where R is a Lewis base capable of